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Swanscombe Urban District Council

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year, 1954

BY

M. F. McDONNELL, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.PH.,
Medical officer of Health

SWANSCOMBE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year ended 31st December, 1954.

BY

M. F. McDONNELL, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.
(Medical Officer of Health)

To the Chairman and Members of the
Swanscombe Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year 1954, upon the public health circumstances of the Urban District of Swanscombe.

Population. There was a increase of 156 in the Registrar General's estimate for the year, from 8,614 in 1953, to 8,770 for the present year.

Birth Rate. The number of births during the year was 130, a decrease of 12 over the previous year, giving a rate for the district of 14.5. The rate for England and Wales is 15.2.

The still-birth figure is low, at 2 in number, providing a rate of 15.38 which compares favourably with that of the country as a whole, which is 24.

General Death Rate. Swanscombe's death rate for 1954 was 9.0 per thousand of the population ; the number of deaths being 79. The rate for England and Wales is 11.3.

Natural increase of the Population. The total births in 1954 exceeded the total deaths by 51. The figures for 1953 and 1954 were 59 and 48 respectively, the present figures are therefore relatively good.

Infant Mortality. The rate for deaths of infants under one year is 38.7. The actual number of infants who died during the year was 5. This figure shows little change over those for 1952 and 1953, which were 5 and 3 respectively.

Provision of Health Services in the Area. Following my usual custom, I have included a summary of the local health services available. These services are administered by the Kent County Council as the local health authority, and I have also included an up-to-date time-table in the form of an Appendix to the report.

Infectious Disease. The statements showing the incidence of notifiable disease follows the form of previous years. The figures call for no special comment.

Deaths from tuberculosis continue to remain at their low level, the year's rate for Swanscombe being 0.22, compared with that of England and Wales of 0.20 persons per thousand. Both these figures are good.

Smallpox Vaccination. The level of infant Vaccination in Kent during 1953 and 1954 was 58.98% and 59.98% respectively, compared with 34.2% and 34.5% for the whole of England and Wales. Although this can be regarded as reasonably satisfactory, a survey of the percentage of children born in 1953 and vaccinated in each district varies considerably throughout the County.

The level of vaccination in North Kent was 72% and 76%.

In conclusion, I have again to record my appreciation of the help and encouragement afforded me by the Council during the year, and to extend to my fellow officers and staff my appreciation of their co-operation and loyalty.

Your obedient Servant,

M. F. McDONNELL,

Medical Officer of Health.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Councillor A. E. Scutts (Chairman)
,, Mrs. A. F. Austen
,, W. Austen
,, E. W. Blackwell
,, T. Bodle
,, C. W. Butcher, J.P.
,, J. Childs
,, P. Connolly
,, W. L. Davidson
,, H. E. Durrant
,, F. H. J. Garland
,, V. F. Jenkins
,, W. O. Keary
,, L. T. Owens
,, A. F. Siggers
,, Mrs. E. E. Thurlow
,, Mrs. M. J. Wright

Clerk:
Mr. F. G. Peters.

Solicitors:
Messrs. Baily & Goff.

Medical Officer of Health:
M. F. McDonnell, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector:
L. E. Croucher, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.
(who is also Surveyor)

Assistant Sanitary Inspector:
F. W. Sharpe (part time).

VITAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	2,142
Population (Census 1951)	8,294
Present estimated population	8,770
Estimated population, 1953	8,614
,, ,, 1952	8,631
Number of inhabited houses (31st March, 1954)	2,522
Number of new houses erected year ended 31st December, 1954—Permanent	80
Rateable value 31st December, 1954	£63,483
,, ,, ,, ,, 1953	£61,618
,, ,, ,, ,, 1952	£59,856
Sum represented by penny rate 1954	£255
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, 1953	£266
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, 1952	£240
Number of Births 1954	130
,, ,, ,, 1953	142
,, ,, ,, 1952	131

	Swanscombe.		England and Wales.		
	Live.	Still.	Live.	Still.	
Birth rate per 1,000 population 1954	14.5	0.22	15.2	0.34	
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, 1953	16.4	0.34	15.5	0.35	
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, 1952	15.1	0.46	15.3	0.35	
Number of illegitimate births 1954					6
,, ,, ,, ,, 1953					9
,, ,, ,, ,, 1952					5
Number of deaths 1954					79
,, ,, ,, 1953					83
,, ,, ,, 1952					83

	Swanscombe.	England and Wales.
Death rate per 1,000 population 1954	9.0	11.3
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, 1953	9.6	11.4
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, 1952	9.6	11.3

	Total	M.	F.
LIVE legitimate	122	62	60
illegitimate	6	4	2
STILLBIRTHS—			
Legitimate	2	—	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—
DEATHS	79	48	31

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	14 5
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	14.8
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	9.0

Death rate of Infants under one year of age :—	
All infants per 1,000 live births	38.7
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	40.9
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	14
,, ,, Measles (all ages)	— —
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	— —
,, ,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	— —

CAUSES OF DEATH IN SWANSCOMBE URBAN DISTRICT, 1954

Causes of Death	Male	Female
All causes	48	31
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	2	—
Tuberculosis, other	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
Measles	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—
Cancer, Stomach	—	—
Cancer, Lung, Bronchus	1	1
Cancer, Breast	—	1
Cancer, Uterus	—	1
Lymphatic Cancers	7	3
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	—
Diabetes	—	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	5	5
Coronary Disease, Angina	11	4
Hypertension with Heart Disease	—	—
Other Heart Disease	8	8
Other Circulatory Disease	1	3
Influenza	—	—
Pneumonia	1	—
Bronchitis	3	—
Other diseases of Respiratory System	—	—
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	—
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	—
Hyperplasia of Prostrate	—	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
Congenital malformations	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	4
Motor vehicle accidents	—	—
All Other Accidents	1	—
Suicide	1	—

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Services available under The National Health Service Act, 1948 and the National Assistance Act, 1948.

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN.

From the 6th July, 1948, the Kent County Council have been the responsible authority for providing these services and I am indebted to the County Medical Officer and his staff for the following information regarding facilities available and hours of attendance at the Clinics :—

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS AND POST NATAL CLINICS

Advice and ante-natal care is given and Post-natal examinations are carried out.
New Parish Hall, Swanscombe—2nd and 4th Monday, 2.0 p.m.

CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

These centres are available for giving advice as to the care of infants and children under the age of five years. Infant foods, National Dried Milk and Ministry of Food Vitamin Products are issued. A Medical Officer and a Health Visitor are in attendance at each centre.

SWANSCOMBE U.

New Parish Hall, Swanscombe	Thursday, 2 p.m.
Brotherhood Hall, Greenhithe.	Tuesday, 2 p.m.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION.

Facilities for diphtheria immunisation and vaccination are available at the Council Offices, Northfleet, on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 10.0 to 11.0 a.m., and at all Child Welfare Centres.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

This service is to provide domestic help for households where such help is required owing to the presence of any person who is ill, lying in, and expectant mothers, mentally defective, aged, or a child not over compulsory school age. Householders are required to contribute towards the cost in accordance with their means.

Application should be made to : Miss J. M. Cook, District Office, Arthur Street, Gravesend. Telephone : Gravesend 166.

HEALTH VISITORS.

These officers are appointed for the purpose of giving advice as to the care of young children, persons suffering from illness and expectant and nursing mothers and as to the measure necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

The Health Visitors also undertake duties in connection with the School Health Service.

SWANSCOMBE

Miss F. E. Arnold, S.R.N., S.C.N., Council Offices Annexe, Northfleet.

DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY SERVICE

This service, which is free, is to secure that an adequate number of midwives are employed by the Kent County Council for attending women in their own homes, either as midwives or maternity nurses.

The names, addresses and telephone numbers of midwifes serving Swanscombe is given below.

Midwife:

Miss M. G. Barron, 98 Leonard Avenue, Swanscombe, Kent. Greenhithe : 2385.
Mrs. D. M. Kent, 67 Broomfield Road, Swanscombe. Greenhithe : 3110.

Facilities are available to expectant mothers for booking and examination by Midwives at M.C.W. Centres.

New Parish Hall, Swanscombe.	Thursday	2 p.m.
Brotherhood Hall, Greenhithe.	Tuesday	2 p.m.

HOME NURSING SERVICE

This service, which is free, is to secure the attendances of nurses on persons who require nursing in their own homes. Apart from cases of emergency and accident, patients can only be attended when the nurse has been requested to do so by a doctor. At the present time it is not possible to provide a night service.

The name and address and Telephone No. of the Home Nurse in Swanscombe is given below.

Home Nurse.

Mrs. M. Lamb	9 Moore Road, Swanscombe, Kent.	Greenhithe : 3225.

COUNTY AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The County Council is responsible for the provision of a comprehensive ambulance service throughout the County. Other than in cases of accident and emergency, no ambulance will be provided except on the recommendation of a doctor, midwife, or hospital, and in the case of sitting-case cars a special form has to be completed and signed by a doctor.

In cases of accident or emergency, if an ambulance is required, telephone '999' or (as indicated in the telephone directory or public telephone box), and ask the operator for " Ambulance."

PROVISION OF NURSING REQUISITES.

Arrangements have been made with the British Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance Brigade for the continuance of the Medical Loan Depots, on behalf of the County Council. The full range of nursing requisites are available at these depots and details of the addresses and the times the depots are open for distribution are available in the district offices. These arrangements are in addition to the loan cupboards kept by District Nurses. The depots deal with all applications for the loan of nursing requisites.

Northfleet : (St. John) 69 Dover Road. Monday to Friday. 7.30 p.m.—9 p.m. (Mr. C. J. Sims. Telephone : Gravesend 4603).

MENTAL WELFARE.

Dr. L. M. Allen, Senior Assistant County Medical Officer, is Medical Officer for Mental Welfare. Dr. Allen's address is County Hall, Maidstone (Telephone: Maidstone 4321).

An Occupation Centre for mentally defective children is held at the Anglo-Saxon Hall, Berkley Road, Gravesend, from Monday to Friday each week, 10.0 a.m. to 3.30 p.m., and children from the Swanscombe area may attend this Centre if suitable.

BLIND PERSONS.

Information on matters affecting the blind can be obtained from the County Medical Officer, County Hall, Maidstone, (Telephone: Maidstone 4321. ext. 588) and the Secretary of the Kent County Association for the Blind, 15 Ashford Road, Maidstone (Telephone: Maidstone 3717).

Financial assistance is provided by the National Assistance Board, at the address below:—

"Rosedene," 61 Shepherds Lane, Dartford.

A Local Officer is now available at "Ravenscourt," Pelham Road, Gravesend. The hours of attendance are 2-4 p.m. daily and 9 a.m.—12 noon on Saturdays.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE.

The following clinics are available for children attending schools in Swanscombe :-

Minor Ailments.	West Kent House, Station Road, Northfleet. Medical Officer attends every Saturday morning, 9.30 a.m.—12 noon.	
Dental.	West Kent House, Station Road, Northfleet. Dental Surgeon attends every Monday and Tuesday, alternate Wednesdays and Saturdays. Except in emergencies, children are treated by appointment only.	
Ophthalmic.	Gravesend and North Kent Hospital	Attendance at these clinics is by appointment only. Application should be made to the Principal Medical Officer, County Hall, Maidstone.
Speech Therapy	107 Rochester Road, Denton, Gravesend.	
Child Guidance.	Woodside Road, Bexley Heath.	

DISTRICT OFFICERS.

These officers are responsible for:—

(a) Duties as Authorised Officers under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts and Mental Deficiency Acts.

(b) Acting as representatives of the County Health Department in dealing with inquiries made by the public and arranging for County Health Services to be made available in cases of difficulty.

(c) Carrying out the duties of the County Council under the National Assistance Act in (i) arranging admissions for old, handicapped and homeless people to residential establishments other than in cases of sickness, and (ii) the care of movable property of patients who are admitted to hospital or to residential establishments provided by the County Council, where it appears that there is a danger of loss or damage to the property.

(d) Distribution of Welfare Foods.

District Officer: Mr. G. T. Jeffery, Arthur Street, Gravesend. Telephone: Gravesend 166.

HOSPITAL SERVICES.

The hospital and specialist services, including institutions for the chronic sick, mental homes, maternity homes, convalescent homes, chest clinics and outpatients departments are administered by the Regional Hospital Boards set up by the Minister of Health, the South-East Metropolitan Regional Board is responsible for all hospitals in Kent, but for day-to-day administration Hospital Management Committees have been set up to deal with groups of hospitals. Generally speaking admission to hospital is a matter for the doctor in charge of the patient and he will make arrangements direct with the hospital authorities, calling upon the County Ambulance Service for the removal of the patient to hospital where this is considered necessary.

NURSERY SCHOOL.

The Northfleet Nursery School provides accommodation for the daily care of children between the ages of 3 and 5 years. Priority is given to the children of mothers who must go to work in order to supplement insufficient wages ; widows, children living in unhealthy, cramped home conditions ; or where a doctor recommends admittance because of unsuitable home life. The staff is trained to deal with difficult children who need more psychological understanding than that provided at home.

Hours of attendance at the Nursery Schools are from 9 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. with normal school holiday periods. Meals are provided for the sum of 2/6d. per week. In addition to the ordinary diet, Ministry of Health Cod Liver Oil Compound, Orange Juice and two-thirds of a pint of milk may be given.

At present 40 children are accommodated at the Nursery—most of them being from the Northfleet area—Application for admission should be made to the Superintendent (Mrs. Dowker), at the Northfleet Nursery School, London Road, Northfleet.

TREATMENT OF ANTHRAX, BOTULISM, SNAKE-BITE AND MUSHROOM POISONING.

List of the nearest centres which keep emergency supplies of sera for the treatment of anthrax, botulism, snake-bite and mushroom (amanita phalloides) poisoning. A 24-hour service is maintained at each centre.

Region 6 : N. E. Metropolitan
North Middlesex Hospital, N.17. Telephone : Tottenham 3071.
Day—Chief Pathologist.
Night—Resident Pathologist.

Region 7 : S.E. Metropolitan
South East Sup-Depot, Weavering House,
Ashford Road, Maidstone, Kent.

Region 8 : S. W. Metropolitan
South London Blood Supply Depot, Telephone : Vigilant 8221.
Stanley Road, Sutton, Surrey.

The Dispensary, Royal South Hants and
Southampton Hospital. Telephone : Southampton 76211.
(Snake Anti-Serum only).

Day Service	Telephone :	Maidstone 4468.
		Maidstone 3604.
Night Service		Maidstone 4660.
		Maidstone 3718.

CONVALESCENT TREATMENT.

Three forms of convalescent treatment are available. These are for : –

(1) Patients who have been ill and treated at home, but who still require nursing care and attention.

(2) Patients who have been ill and treated at home, and who in the opinion of their doctor require a change of air.

(3) Patients who have been hospital cases.

Patients in category (1) above, the doctor in charge should write to the Regional Board, Portland Place, London, asking for the ' Convalescent Home ' form.

In category (2) above, the doctor in charge should send a certificate to Dr. Elliott, County Hall, Maidstone, who will arrange convalescence at Homes situated in Herne Bay, Whitstable, etc.

Patients in category (3) will have convelescence arranged by the Lady Almoner of the hospital.

FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION.

Medway Towns Branch of the Family Planning Association announce that their Clinic is open on Thursday, September 23rd, at All Saint's Hospital, Chatham (Ante-Natal Clinic). Thursday evenings—7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

HOME SAFETY.

In recent months, the gravity of the position in regard to accidents in the home has received considerable attention.

Many eminent people have underlined the seriousness of the position in regard to the taking up of bed-space in hospitals and the immense financial loss to the Country caused by these accidents. This is no small problem when it is remembered that since 1949 some 31,674 fatal accidents have occurred.

It is generally agreed that while suitable legislation can do something to prevent home accidents, in the last resort it rests with the public to take the necessary precautions, and therefore education is of primary importance.

PREVALANCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Application for the admission of infectious diseases to hospital should be made to the Medical Superintendent of the River Hospital. In the case of Small Pox admission to hospital is arranged by the Consultants who diagnose the disease or by the Medical Officer of Health on his behalf. Telephone: Dartford 3231.

Special arrangements have been made for cases occurring amongst the Cadets in the Worcester Training Ship moored off Greenhithe. These are removed by launch to the Port of London Authority Hospital, Gravesend, Telephone Gravesend 257.

Scarlet Fever:

Cases notified	11
Cases removed to hospital ...	0
% of cases removed	0

Whooping Cough:

Cases notified	51
Cases removed to hospital ...	0
% of cases removed	0

Erysipelas:

Cases notified	0
Cases removed to Hospital ...	0
% of cases removed	0

Dysentery:

Cases notified	5
Cases removed to Hospital ...	0
% of cases removed	0

Parathyphoid Fever:

Cases notified	0

Measles:

Cases notified ...	4
Cases removed to hospital	0
% of cases removed ...	0

Pneumonia:

Cases notified ...	25
Cases removed to hospital	0
% of cases removed ...	0

Diphtheria:

Cases notified ...	0

Poliomyelitis:

Cases notified ...	1
Cases removed to hospital	1
% of cases removed	100%

Enteric or Typhoid Fever:

Cases notified ...	0

Tuberculosis.

The following statement relates to the number of cases appearing on the Council's Register at 31st December, 1954 :—

	Pulmonary.			Non-Pulmonary.			Totals
	M.	F.	Total	M	F.	Total	
(a) No. of cases of Tuberculosis on the register at the commencement of the year	77	69	146	16	13	29	175
(b) No. of cases remaining on the register at the end of the year	83	70	153	16	13	29	182
(c) No. of cases notified during the year	8	4	12	—	—	—	12
(d) No. of deaths during the year	2	0	2	—	—	—	2

The following are the ages and occupations of those persons notified during the year :—

Age M.	Age F.	Occupation.	Age M.	Age F.	Occupation.
	18	Multiple Stores Floor Supervisor	45		Crossing Attendant
			47		Checker Paper Mills
18		Painter	58		Blacksmith's Assistant
	28	Plaster Vent Maker	19		Apprentice Electrician
28		Chemist	24		Maintenance Fitter
17		Cadet		33	Clerk
	16	Paper Sorter			

T.B. DISPENSARIES.

Gravesend and North Kent Hospital, Gravesend	Wednesdays, 9 a.m.—5 p.m.
West Hill Hospital, Dartford,	Daily. 9 a.m.—5 p.m.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925.

There was no need for action under these regulations.

Public Health Act 1925 Section 62.
Public Health Act 1936 Section 172.

There was no occasion for action under these Sections.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA AND VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX, 1954.

The following is a return of (A) the number of children resident in the Urban District of Swanscombe, who were immunised against diphtheria and (B) the number of persons who were vaccinated against smallpox, during the year ended 31st December, 1954 :—

(A) **Diphtheria Immunisation.**

Year of Birth	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	Total
Primary Inoculations —	12	82	3	2	2	8	7	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	120
Reinforcing Inoculations	—	—	—	—	8	46	16	5	16	1	—	—	—	—	—	92

(B) **Vaccination.**

Year of Birth	1944	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	Before 1940	Total
Primary Vaccination	55	30	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	86
Re-Vaccination	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA, 1954.

The following is a return of the number of children under the age of 15 years on 31st December, 1954, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e., at any time since January, 1940).

Year of Birth	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster) 1950-1954	1	4	16	22	59	65	123	100	89	132	97	95	82	86	12	1025
1949 or earlier	66	72	46	34	19	5	2	11	8	8	—	—	—	—	—	271
Population 1951 Census.	118	105	134	113	107	94	107	133	139	123	210	200	150	143	126	2002

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases			Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
Notified	Treated					
	At Home	In Hospital				
—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Venereal Diseases.

County Hospital, Dartford.	Mondays	4-6 p.m. (Males) 11-1 p.m. (Females)
22, Cobham Street, Gravesend.	Tuesdays	9.0-12 noon (Males) 12 noon-2 p.m. Females)
	Saturdays	9 a.m. (Males) 9.30 a.m. (Females)

The undermentioned figures show the number of cases suffering from V.D. attending Dartford and Gravesend V.D. Clinics from Swanscombe Urban District :—

New Patients.	Total.
Syphilis	—
Gonorrhoea	2
Non-Venereal	3
No. of attendances of Swanscombe patients	19

There were no defaulters from Swanscombe before completion of treatment during 1954.

REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

Registration District:

Darent Valley
Comprising Swanscombe U.D.C.
and Dartford R.D.

Registrar:

Mrs. J. Maltby.

Head Office:

The Register Office,
West Hill,
Dartford. Telephone No. 3881.

Monday	9 a.m.—12 noon	
Tuesday	9 a.m.—12 noon	
Wednesday	9 a.m.—12 noon	2 p.m.—4.30 p.m.
Thursday	2 p.m.—5 p.m.	
Friday	2 p.m.—5 p.m.	

Registration Station:

Primitive Methodist Schoolroom,
Church Road.
Swanscombe. Thursday 11 a.m.—12 noon

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Reports received on samples taken from various sources on the Metropolitan Water Board Supply to the area.

Date of Samples 1954.	No. of organisms per c.c. capable of growth on agar at 37°C	22°C	Remarks.
5.1.54	0	5	Good water.
2.3.54	0	0	Good Water.
12.4.54	0	1	Good Water.
4.5.54	0	0	Good Water.
8.6.54	0	8	Good Water.
3.8.54	0	0	Good Water.
2.11.54	0	0	Good Water.
6.12.54	0	0	Good Water.

Reports received on samples taken from various wells and mains supplying the factories situated in the district.

Date of Samples 1954.	No. of organisms per c.c. capable of growth on agar at 37°C	22°C	Remarks
22.2.54	0	0	Good Water.
4.5.54	0	0	Good water.
7.7.54	1,458	1,585	B. Coli (presumptive) per 100 ML. absent. No evidence of recent faecal contamination
7.9.54	0	254	B. Coli (presumptive) per 100 ML. absent. No evidence of recent faecal contamination
27.7.54	571	1,014	B. Coli (presemptive) per 100 M.L. absent. No evidence of recent faecal contamination
5.10.54	0	0	Good water.

SWIMMING POOL.

Reports received on samples taken from the Swimming Pool.

Date of Sample.		No or organisms per c.c. capable of growth on agar 37°C	22°C	Remarks. Probable No. of B.Coli (Presumptive) per 100 M.L.	Propable No. of Faecal B. Coli per 100 M.L.
8.6.54	Deepend	1,141	1,522	Absent	
	Shallowend	14	49	3	
7.7.54	Deepend	1,268	1,331	50	
	Shallowend	54	71	Absent	
3.8.54	Deepend	22,628	62,330	3	Absent
	Shallowend	1,014	1,141	Absent	
7.9.54	Deepend	154	214	180—	3
	Shallowend	98	172	180—	Absent
13.9.54	Deepend	5	14	Absent	
	Shallowend	0	2	Absent	

Attendances 1953 :	Adults 3,470. Spectators	926
	Children paid for admission	12,587
	Children from schools	3.571
	Beaver Swimming Club	1,208
	Season Ticket holders	931
	Schools Gala	486
Attendances 1954 :	Adults 1,920. Spectators	634
	Children paid for admission	9,042
	Children from schools	3,538
	Beaver Swimming Club	1,207
	Season Ticket Holders	591

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Collection.

One S.D. Freighter (Registered 1950) of 6 cubic yards capacity, is used for this work.

Disposal.

During the period of report, a shallow disused gravel pit was selected as a site for disposal. Unlike the old method of depositing refuse over a deep faced quarry, controlled tipping is now carried out satisfactorily.

SEWAGE.

Eleven samples of Sewage Effluent were collected and submitted to the County Analyst for examination, all were below the impurity figure of 72.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Analysis of matter collected in Atmospheric Deposit Gauge, situated on roof of Swimming Pool, London Road, Greenhithe.

Date.	Rainfall Ins.	Total Water Insoluable Matter.	Total Water Soluable Matter.	Tons per sq. Mile
31.1.54	0.98	25.71	30.47	56.18
28.2.54	1.62	19.63	21.58	41.21
31.3.54	1.19	22.50	22.56	45.06
30.4.54	0.09	20.34	15.64	35.98
31.5.54	1.30	35.42	24.95	60.36
30.6.54	2.85	24.39	24.21	48.60
31.7.54	2.52	16.07	18.34	34.42
31.8.54	2.66	25.18	29.78	54.96
30.9.54	1.32	15.59	15.41	31.00
31.10.54	1.48	9.86	12.84	22.70
30.11.54	3.19	22.06	33.68	55.74
31.12.54	1.16	17.13	23.01	40.14

MILK SUPPLY.

Sterilized Milk.

Fourty-four samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination, all samples satisfied the turbidity test.

Pasteurised Milk.

Twenty-two samples taken from the distributors in the district, satisfied the test.

Samples of School milk as supplied by W. E. Southwood, Vale Road Dairy, Northfleet, were taken monthly by the Public Health Department, Northfleet Urban District Council, all proved satisfactory.

There are no dairies or bottling establishments situated in this district.

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947.

There are thirty establishments in the district, twenty-eight are registered for retail only, two are registered to make Ice Cream, with prescribed cold mix. Three hundred and six samples were submitted for bacteriological examination, with the result 266 were grade I, 39 of grade II, 1 of grade III. No Pathogenic organisms were cultivated.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, 1938-1950.

Details of Samples taken by the County Sampling Officers within the Swanscombe Urban District during the year ended, 31st December, 1954.

Article.	No.
Adrenaline Cream	1
Cornish Pasty	2
Cream Soda	1
Creemy Lolly	1
Iced Lolly	2
Iodised Sarsparilla Blood Mixture	1
Jaffajuce	2
Kilkof Cones	1
Liver Pills	1
Marzipan	1
Marzipan Shaving Set	2
Milk	14
Pastry Maker	1
Pease Pudding	1
Pure Butter Brazils	1
Rum	2
Smoked Cod Roe	1
Special Home Made Butters	1
Spray Process Skim Milk Powder	1
Tonic Syrup for Nerves	1
Whole Orange Drink	1
Zinc Oxide B.P. and Castor Oil B.P. Ointment	1
Total ...	40

SUMMARY

Milks ...	14
Drugs ...	6
Spirits ...	2
Other Samples	18
	40

All the samples were genuine with the exception of the following :—

Sample of	Analysis.	Action Taken.
Jaffajuce	Inferior. Indicated juice content not more than 45%.	Further sample taken and found genuine.
Marzipan Shaving Set.	Inferior. Oil 10.9%, Almond 19%, Protein 4.5%, Suecrose 15%, invert Sugar 60% (Almond should be 25%).	Written caution issued.
Marzipan Shaving Set.	Adulterated. Almond 18% Total Sugars 77%, Marzipan should contain not less than 25% Almond ; on this basis the article is 7% deficient which is 28% of the minimum amount.	
Pastry Maker.	Inferior. Fat 28%, CO_2 0.21%. Deficient in CO_2. No doubt old stock.	Stock withdrawn from sale.
Special Home Made Butters.	Inferior. Deficient 1.2% minimum amount of butter fat.	Written caution issued.

OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED.

15 ozs.	Strawberries
10 lbs. 2 ozs.	Apricots
9 lbs.	Black Currants
3 lbs.	Plums
1 lb.	Quinces
10 lbs.	Apples
1 lb.	Blackberries
2 lbs. 8 ozs.	Figs
13 ozs.	Bottle of Pears
2 lbs.	Jam
1 lb.	Beetroot
8 lbs.	Baked Beans
6 lbs.	Rhubarb
1 lb.	Peas
1 lb. 6 ozs.	Mince Beef Loaf
61 lbs.	Beef
6 lbs. 12 ozs.	Corned Beef
137 lbs.	Pork
8 ozs.	Pork Sausage
160 lbs.	Cod
34 lbs.	Skate
14 lbs.	Plaice
14 lbs.	Haddock
4 lbs. 8 ozs.	Cheese
10 ozs.	Pickles
2 lbs. 7 ozs.	Soup
9 tins of Milk	

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

In accordance with the Ministry of Food Circular MF5/54, one licence only was issued for the Re-licencing of a Slaughterhouse situated in the district. The Licence is dated 1st December, 1954, and expires on the 31st December, 1956.

Before the granting of licence, the following structural alterations and additions were made :—

Slaughter House.
Practically reconstructed with improved ventilation.

Lairage.
Additional lairage provided and existing repaired.

Cooling Room, additional structure.
Provided for hanging and inspection of carcases.

A second application for licencing of Slaughterhouse is held in abeyance, the whole of the work specified is not yet completed.

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. killed (if known)	—	—	—	4	264
No. inspected ...	—	—	—	4	264
All diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole carcass condemned ...	—	—	—	—	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	0.75
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—	—

HOUSING STATISTICS

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses.

(1)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	245
	Number of inspections made for that purpose	245
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under the preceding heading) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Amendment Regulations, 1925 and 1932	169
	Number of inspections made for that purpose	169
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	—
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	134

2. Remedy of defects without service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the L.A. or its Officers	110

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

(a)	Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	54
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
	(a) By Owners	14
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	—
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	56
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
	(a) By Owners	12
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	—
(c)	Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
	(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	—
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	—
(d)	Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
	(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	—
	(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1954.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Swanscombe Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my report for the year 1954 of work carried out under the Public Health, Housing, Factories and Food and Drugs Acts, etc.

Investigation was carried out of all cases of infectious diseases, disinfection of beddings, clothing and premises, inspection under the Factory and Workshops Act, inspection of foods, sampling of milk and water, etc., investigation of complaints, interviewing builders and owners of property concerning sanitary work. Other duties are clerical work in connection with the above and administration and supervision of the Cleansing Department.

Number of complaints received during the year	139
Total number of visits made	2176
Preliminary Notices served	136
,, ,, complied with	135
Statutory Notices served	26
,, ,, complied with	25

Verbal notice only was given on 17 occasions.

Visits made by Sanitary Inspectors during the year 1954 :—

First visits, Public Health Act 1936 and Housing Act 1936	245
Re-visits, Public Health Act 1936	136
Infectious disease enquiries	34
Inspections of verminous premises	1
Visits in connection with verminous persons	—
Water supply and subsequent visits	14
Drainage inspections	105
Drains tested	88
Visits regarding cesspools	3
Housing Act visits and revisits	381
Moveable dwelling inspections	2
Rats and mice primary visits	321
Rats and mice subsequent visits	161
Factories visited	56
Bakehouse—basement	—
Bakehouses—ground level	14
Food premises	204
Dairies and milkshops	—
Milk sampling	66
Water sampling	14
Ice Cream sampling	306
Sewage sampling	11
Stables	—
Miscellaneous, accumulations animals	4
Swimming Pool (water samples)	10
	2176

INFECTION AND DISINFECTION.

During the year 86 cases of infectious diseases were investigated, viz :—

Scarlet fever	11
Tuberculosis	12
Measles	4
Whooping Cough	51
Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Poliomyelitis	1
Enteric or Typhoid ...	—
Dysentery	5
Meningococcal Infection	1
Total	86

Included in this was the supervision of the disinfection of same.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

(1) The number of (a) Council Houses 2 ; (b) other houses 3 ; (i) found to be infested 5 ; (ii) disinfested 5.
(2) The method employed for freeing infested houses from bed bugs is by fumigation, (Fumite), containing D.D.T. 60% in weight.
(3) The method employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin, routine inspection and disinfestation.
(4) The work of disinfestation : (a) Council Houses, Local Authority. (b) Private houses, Local Authority at owner's cost.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.
INFESTATION ORDER SR & O 1943 No. 680.

In accordance with Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Circular N.S. No. 19, a test was made of the Sewer and was again found to be infested.

Post baiting proved to be reasonably successful.

Surface Infestations. Fourteen major infestations, and One hundred and ten minor infestations were successfully dealt with.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Collection. One S.D. Freighter (registered 1950) of 6 cubic yards capacity is used for this work, one driver and four men are employed on this vehicle.

Approximately 5,562 cubic yards were collected and disposed of.

Disposal. The method of disposal is by controlled tipping in a shallow disused ballast pit.

STREET CLEANSING, GULLEY AND CESSPOOL EMPTYING.

These services were reasonably maintained, a Fordson (registered 1953) of 600 gallons capacity is used for this work, one driver and one man is employed part time on this work.

The following is a summary of nuisances and defects remedied during the year :—

Accumulations of offensive refuse removed	5
Animals in an unfit state	—
Ashbins provided	149
Ceilings repaired	4
Cesspools repaired or abolished	2
Chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt	9
Chimney flues repaired	2
Doors repaired or renewed	5
Door frames repaired or renewed	2
Drainage Systems :—	
Drains repaired or reconstructed	3
Drains Cleansed	41
Gulley traps repaired or renewed	2
Gulley trap gratings provided	—
Soil and vent pipes provided	—
Inspection chambers repaired	2
Eaves gutters repaired or renewed	7
Firegrates repaired or renewed	—
Fireplaces, brickwork and plasterwork repaired	—
Floors repaired or relaid	1
Floors, sub-floor ventilation provided	6
Rainwater downspouts repaired or renewed	1
Roofs repaired	20
Sinks repaired or renewed	—
Sink waste pipes repaired or renewed	—
Staircase repaired	—
Stoves repaired or renewed	—
Rats, premises treated	161
Verminous rooms	2
Walls, brickwork repaired or repointed	20
Wall, damp proof course inserted	10
Walls, internal plasterwork repaired	31
Washing boilers, coppers repaired or renewed	—
Water closets :—	
External structure repaired	5
Internal structure repaired	8
Flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	4
Flush pipes repaired or renewed	11
Basins and traps renewed	2
Seats repaired or renewed	2
Water supply, supply pipes, etc., repaired	—
Windows, woodwork of frames, sashes or sills repaired or renewed	18
Yard Surfaces repaired or renewed	2
Miscellaneous	12
Approximate number of separate premises in the area	2522
Number of premises containing each type of sanitary convenience in district (approximate) :—	2522

W.C's into drainage system	2478	W.C's into cesspools	40
Earth closets or privy midens	1	Pail Closets	3

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

1. **INSPECTIONS** for purposes of provisions as to health, including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises (1)	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
Factories with Mechanical power	49	1	—
Factories without Mechanical power	15	—	—
Other premises under the Act	31	7	—
Totals	95	8	—

2. **DEFECTS FOUND.**

Particulars	Number of Defects			
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	No. of Prosecutions
Want of cleanliness	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	1	1	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—				
Insufficient	1	1	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—
Not separate for sexes	1	1	—	—
Other offences	4	3	—	—
Totals	8	7	—	—

	No. in district	No. of visits in 1953	No. of faults and defects found	No. of faults and defects remedied
Bakehouses	6	8	—	1
Dairies	—	—	—	—
Slaughterhouses—				
Registered	—	—	—	—
Licensed	1	41		
Other food-preparing places which are, as such, subject to inspection	31	210	1	—
Offensive Trades	—	—	—	—
Common Lodging Houses	—	—	—	—
Houses-let-in-lodgings	—	—	—	—
Factories	16	30	1	1
Workshops	22	26	—	—
Workplaces (other than outworkers' homes)	15	57	6	6

Housing Act, 1936. Overcrowding.

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	1
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	2
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	8
(b)	(i)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	1
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	1
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	8
(d)	(i)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	—

(1) Total number of houses owned by the Local Authority:—

1919 Scheme	63
1923 ,,	28
1924 ,,	201
Non-subsidy	96
1936 Scheme	27
Prewar houses being sold under mortgage	48
Temporary	100
Orchard Road Site	32
New Houses, Permanent Type	96
,, ,, ,, Prefabricated	62
Swanscombe Street Site conversions, Bungalows	38
Requisitioned Units	13
The Flats	100
Total	904

(2) Number of new houses built during 1954, —

(a) By Local Authority Permanent type	66
(b) By other bodies or persons	14
	80

I am,
Your obedient Servant,
L. E. CROUCHER,
Sanitary Inspector.